

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. LARRY MEREDITH

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Larry Meredith, who retired on March 31, 2015 following a long and successful career in health and human services that culminated as director of the Marin County Health and Human Services Department for the past 13 years.

After earning a degree in business administration from the University of Western Ontario and his master's and doctorate degrees in psychology from Penn State University, Dr. Meredith worked for the San Francisco Department of Public Health for 30 years before coming to Marin.

Dr. Meredith led the department of Health and Human Services during challenging and exciting times. From his first day of work in Marin, Dr. Meredith has navigated the Department with distinction through restructuring and a severe economic downturn while maintaining a focus on promoting wellness and preventative health care to achieve improved, comprehensive community health.

With a bold vision for the future and an unwavering dedication to strengthening partnerships, Dr. Meredith proved time and again his merits as a devoted leader. He successfully directed Marin County's Team HHS—a staff of more than 700 employees across 10 sites—and managed a \$160M budget with multiple grants and funding streams. Those feats would be remarkable by themselves, but it's his dedication to building community relationships and inspiring collaboration among stakeholders that truly sets his service apart.

In his work and life, he has supported and strengthened commitments to many pressing community issues, including access to services for those facing mental health issues, homelessness, disabilities, and socio-economic disadvantages. His work will have a long-lasting and positive impact on Marin County for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we honor and thank Dr. Larry Meredith for his years of dedicated service to the people of Marin County and extended Bay Area community, and for guiding Marin to its ranking as the Healthiest County in California for six consecutive years by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin. On behalf of the many individuals and organizations he served, I am honored to express our deep appreciation to Dr. Meredith for his exemplary public service, and convey our best wishes as he pursues new endeavors.

NATIONAL LINEMAN  
APPRECIATION DAY**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of the wonderful work that linemen do across this great nation. It is a privilege that my office was able to introduce a resolution supporting the designation of April 18, 2015 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. These brave men and women toil every day on behalf of public safety, and for that every American is rightfully thankful for all that they do.

Linemen have a long and storied history in this nation. It is a profession that is often passed down from one generation to the next. The danger of working atop power lines channeling thousands of volts of electricity requires courageous and dedicated individuals up to the challenge. When storms and other catastrophic events occur in our communities, linemen are often there as first responders, working hand in hand with other public safety heroes to secure the scene.

Mr. Speaker, since these men and women often go unrecognized, and because of the unique danger they often find themselves in by tirelessly working to maintain our nation's energy infrastructure, it is entirely fitting and proper to set aside a day of national recognition, April 18, 2015, as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY  
DAY**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am so tired of coming down here to the floor each and every year and marking the day that women's pay finally catches up to that of a man's! Equal Pay Day is not a bittersweet occasion—it is simply a bitter reminder of the worth that this country places on the work of women. It is quite simply unfathomable! Today is a glaring reminder of the hard work that still needs to be done in order to achieve gender parity in pay.

Women are half the population! How has this inequity been allowed to stand for so long? When President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law in 1963, women on average made 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. It has been 51 years since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law, and yet women still earn on average only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, amounting to a yearly gap of \$11,607 between full-time working men and women. We've made some progress—but it's not even close to being enough.

Equal pay is not simply a women's issue—it is a family issue. Families increasingly rely

on women's wages to make ends meet, and with less take-home pay women have less money for the everyday needs of their families.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, in California, women in are paid 84 cents for every dollar paid to men, amounting to an annual wage gap of \$8,183 between men and women who work full time in the state. In addition, Californian women who are employed full time lose a combined total of approximately \$37,658,902,470 every year due to the wage gap. Let me say that again: That's almost \$38 BILLION each year!

The sad reality is that the pay gap is not simply an education issue either. Nationally, women with master's degrees that work full time are paid just 70 cents for every dollar paid to men with master's degrees. Further, women with doctoral degrees are paid less than men with master's degrees, and women with master's degrees are paid less than men with bachelor's degrees.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Paycheck Fairness Act is so critical. I am so proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill. It will close loopholes and strengthen the Equal Pay Act, which hasn't been updated in 52 years. The bill has 189 cosponsors so far. And once again this year NOT ONE is a Republican! What possible reasons are there to be against equal pay for equal work? This issue does not only affect Democrats. It affects all hard-working American women and families—regardless of their political party. Does the Majority simply not care about this problem, or is it yet another continuation of the War on Women that they continue to deny year after year?

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE  
RECOGNITION DAY**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 14, 2015*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor National Service Recognition Day, which was held on April, 7th. Service to our community and our country is an enduring feature of the American spirit, and today we recognize those who have made a commitment to volunteerism.

America's cities and communities are at their best when citizens are engaged and take an active role in developing solutions. The Corporation for National and Community Service operates programs that activate and empower communities to tackle some of their most pressing issues such as education, health care, national disaster recovery, and the environment.

AmeriCorps and Senior Corps operate in more than 60,000 locations across the country, bolstering both private and non-profit organizations that do vital work in their communities. These programs mobilize millions of volunteers, building skills and educating leaders nationwide. In New Mexico alone,

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